

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6653

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USBERLIN

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 02999

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GW, UR, WB, AO

SUBJECT: SOVIET AMBASSADOR'S VIEWS ON FRG

1. CDU BUNDESTAG DEPUTY RICHARD VON WEIZSAECKER (PROTECT) HAS TOLD AN EMBASSY OFFICER ABOUT A RECENT THREE-HOUR CONVERSATION HE HAD WITH SOVIET AMBASSADOR FALIN CONCERNING SOVIET-FRG RELATIONS AND ANGOLA.

2. VON WEIZSAECKER COMMENTED TO FALIN THAT AFRICAN DIPLOMATS HAD EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT SOVIET INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA, WHICH THEY FEARED WAS THE REINTRODUCTION OF COLONIALISM ON THE CONTINENT. FALINSTONEWALLED IN HIS REPLY AND SAID THAT SUCH TALK WAS ANTI-SOVIET PROPAGANDA. THE SOVIETS WERE SIMPLY ASSISTING THE LIBERATION FORCES UPON THE REQUEST OF THE AFRICANS THEMSELVES.

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3. FALIN REMARKED THAT WHEN HE ARRIVED IN THE FRG IN 1971 HE HAD MISTAKENLY BELIEVED THAT THE GERMANS WERE A

"LEGALISTIC PEOPLE." HOWEVER, SINCE THEN HE HAD LEARNED TO HIS REGRET THAT THE WEST GERMANS VIEWED ANY TREATY AS MERELY THE STEPPING STONE TO WHAT THEY WANTED NEXT. A CASE IN POINT, ACCORDING TO THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR, WAS THE QUADRAPARTITE AGREEMENT WHICH THE WEST GERMANS SET OUT TO VIOLATE AS SOON AS IT WAS SIGNED. IN FACT, FALIN SAID, THE WAY THE FRG PUSHED ITS THEORIES ON BERLIN WAS ANYTHING BUT "LEGALISTIC."

4. ANOTHER SAD LESSON HE HAD LEARNED, FALIN SAID, WAS THAT THERE WAS NO REAL DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE WEST GERMAN POLITICAL PARTIES; THEY WERE ALL BASICALLY ANTI-SOVIET. IN 1972 THE SOVIETS HAD BELIEVED THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT THE SPD WIN THE ELECTION, BUT THEY HAVE BEEN DISAPPOINTED SINCE THEN. FALIN THEN LAUNCHED INTO AN ATTACK ON CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT AND FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER.

5. FALIN CITED A NUMBER OF EXAMPLES OF WHAT HE SAID WAS A WELL ORGANIZED ANTI-SOVIET CAMPAIGN. TWO HE MENTIONED WERE THE RECENT WEST GERMAN TV SHOW ABOUT KGB ACTIVITIES IN THE FRG AND THE WEST GERMAN MEDIA'S COVERAGE OF THE OLYMPICS; HE SPECIFIED THE COVERAGE ABOUT THE SOVIET LONG DISTANCE SKIER WHO WAS DISQUALIFIED BECAUSE OF THE MEDICATION SHE TOOK BEFORE THE RACE.

6. AT THE CONCLUSION OF FALIN'S TIRADE, VON WEIZSAECKER REBUTTED HIM POINT-BY-POINT AND TOLD HIM THAT HE HOPED THE CONVERSATION DID NOT REFLECT THE REPORTING ON POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN THE FRG WHICH THE SOVIET EMBASSY SENT TO MOSCOW, BECAUSE IT DID NOT REPRESENT REALITY. FALIN LAUGHED AND SAID HE WISHED VON WEIZSAECKER WERE RIGHT BUT HE WAS AFRAID HE WAS NOT.

7. FALIN ALSO SPOKE AT GREAT LENGTH ABOUT HOW WESTERN OBSERVERS FAILED TO UNDERSTAND THE ENORMOUS TASK OF BUILDING A SOCIALIST SOCIETY. THE FOUNDERS OF THE USSR HAD NOT FORESEEN THE LONG-TERM DIFFICULTIES IN BRINGING ABOUT A SOCIALIST STATE. WESTERN OBSERVERS EITHER
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CONCENTRATED ON SOVIET INTERNAL PROBLEMS SUCH AS AGRICULTURE, OR ON SOVIET FOREIGN POLICY. THE LONG-RANGE GOAL OF CREATING A TRULY SOCIALIST SOCIETY WOULD BE ACCOMPLISHED DESPITE THE OBSTACLES, THE AMBASSADOR SAID, WITH SOME FEELING.

8. AT THE CONCLUSION OF HIS COMMENTS ABOUT HIS MEETING WITH FALIN, VON WEIZSAECKER TOLD EMBASSY OFFICER HE BELIEVED THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR HAD STAKED TOO MUCH ON WHAT AN SPD VICTORY IN 1972 WOULD MEAN FOR FRG-SOVIET

RELATIONS. SINCE THEN FALIN HAD BEEN TAKING A "HARD
LINE" IN ORDER TO REHABILITATE HIMSELF IN MOSCOW. THE
TIME HAD COME WHEN IT WOULD BE BEST FOR EVERYONE IF
FALIN WERE TO LEAVE, VON WEIZSAECKER CONCLUDED.
HILLENBRAND

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